

## **Utah Division of Juvenile Justice Services**

### **Canyonlands Youth Center opens Observation & Assessment Center**

**The Canyonlands Youth Center in Blanding Utah will be operating its Observation & Assessment Center (O&A) in September of 2012. The Multiuse Youth Center in Blanding was opened in 2003. It originally was constructed to operate 16 beds for detention, 16 beds for shelter and an observation and assessment center. The observation and assessment center was never opened. Youth who are court ordered from Grand and San Juan County to the Division of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) for an assessment has historically been transported to the Vernal, Richfield and Springville observation and assessment centers. The juvenile court and community partners are all in support of this addition of the observation and assessment center.**

**The DJJS Guiding principals have always emphasized the relationship between youth and his/her family and “When it is in the best interest of the youth and community, provide placements in close proximity to the youth’s family and community.”**

**The observation and assessment center is a 45-day residential program that provides a comprehensive evaluation comprised of educational, psychological, behavioral, social history and treatment planning. Social history information obtained from parents, relatives and guardians is very beneficial to the assessment process.**

**The staff at the Canyonlands Youth Center has received training in preparation to operate the observation and assessment center. They are excited and ready to take on this challenge. It is important to keep in mind the unique dynamics that confront the rural communities in regards to resources. The program will not increase personnel and will be creative in its coverage. It is not the quantity but the quality of our services that builds on excellence. We will embrace this new addition of the observation and assessment center in Blanding with the spirit of teamwork with our community partners to best serve our valued client population of children and parents.**

